



EMQ FamiliesFirst

Dispelling the *Myths* of Foster-Adoption

- **Myth:** *Adoption through Foster Care is Expensive.*
Reality: Foster adoption is virtually free.
- **Myth:** *The birth parents can take the children back.*
Reality: Once parental rights are terminated, the parents have no further recourse for gaining custody of the children.
- **Myth:** *Children enter foster care because of juvenile delinquency.*
Reality: Children enter foster care through no fault of their own, usually as victims of neglect, abandonment or abuse.
- **Myth:** *Children's history is not disclosed to the potential family in order to find a home for the children.*
Reality: All agencies are legally required to provide known information about the children to potential parents.
- **Myth:** *Only the stereotypical "traditional" family can adopt.*
Reality: Adoptive families can include: same-sex couples, single parents, senior or disabled individuals, and multi-cultural families.
- **Myth:** *Only infants are in need of being adopted, not teens.*
Reality: Most foster children are 6 years or older, and many are pre-teens or teens.
- **Myth:** *Adoptive families are "on their own" after adoption is finalized.*
Reality: Post-adoption services, including clinical services, support groups and financial assistance (Adoption Assistance Program) is available to families.
- **Myth:** *Only people with a "perfect" history can adopt.*
Reality: Sometimes, a parents' previous life experience can be the best gift to a child. Perfection is not an expectation.
- **Myth:** *There is too much "red tape" and bureaucracy involved in adopting a child from foster care.*
Reality: Congress has streamlined the foster care adoption process through the Safe Families Act of 1997. Children that are not reunited with their birth parents are matched with permanent adoptive families as efficiently as possible.

Call now to talk to someone about foster parenting: (877) 488-5437, or [email](#) your information so that we can let you know about foster parenting in your area.